

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 634

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Stanley Jackson and the Chattanooga Howard High School girls' track team on winning the 2009 TSSAA Class A/AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Stanley Jackson, the Chattanooga Howard High School girls' track team is one such commendable squad that evinces great sportsmanship and athletic excellence in all its endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Howard High School Lady Hustlin' Tigers thrilled their enthusiastic supporters at the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro as they won the 2009 TSSAA Class A/AA State Championship, thus claiming their first state track title since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Hustlin' Tigers proved that nothing is impossible, if you want it badly enough, as they overcame adversity and limited resources to win the state championship despite having only eight athletes, only seven of whom competed; and

WHEREAS, Howard was led in its march to the championship by phenomenal freshman LaQuisha Jackson who won two individual events and ran the anchor leg in two relay victories; and

WHEREAS, in winning the 100-meter dash, LaQuisha posted the best time by any female in any division (11.87); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jackson then blew away the competition in winning the 200-meter dash, posting a time (24.51) that was only four-tenths of one second shy of the thirty-year-old state record; and

WHEREAS, after Shaquia Porter, Lacoya White, and Ashley Taylor had done their part in the first three legs of the 4x100 relay, LaQuisha Jackson took the baton for the final leg trailing four runners, but within ten meters she was passing her competitors like lightning, and she crossed the finish line more than one-half second ahead of the next closest runner; and

WHEREAS, in the final event of the competition, the 4x400 relay, Howard claimed victory once again, and more importantly, posted ten points to win the team state championship; and

WHEREAS, Crystal Moore, Tasha Austin, and Ashley Taylor did the heavy lifting in the 4x400, having established a huge lead for LaQuisha Jackson when she took the baton and ran the final leg as a one-horse race; and

WHEREAS, in addition to competing in the 4x400 relay, Howard senior Tasha Austin also shone brightly in individual events; she won the 300-meter hurdles in a photo finish and finished second in the 100-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles; and

WHEREAS, Howard had previously claimed victory in the East Sectional to advance to the Spring Fling; LaQuisha Jackson was once again dominant in the sectional, as she set a meet record in the 200-meter dash with a time (24.47) that bested the previous record by more than two seconds, and easily won the 100-meter dash; she also anchored victories in the 4x10 and 4x400 relays and helped to set a record in the 4x400 relay; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Taylor won the 400-meter race in the East Sectional, and Tasha Austin finished second in three events; and

WHEREAS, perhaps even more important than their state championship this year, the Lady Hustlin' Tigers exhibited the highest level of sportsmanship on the track and the most honorable precepts of citizenship off the track; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship season, but also surely point toward their continued success as athletes and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field of play and in the classroom, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Stanley Jackson and the "Elite Eight" Lady Hustlin' Tigers of the Chattanooga Howard High School girls' track team on capturing the 2009 TSSAA Class A/AA State Championship and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.